UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

DATE: 6/30/66

SAC, DALLAS (89-43)

FROM: SUPVR. ROBERT P. GEMBERLING

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY
11/22/63, DALLAS, TEXAS
MISCELLANEOUS -
INFORMATION CONCERNING

OO - DALLAS

In response to telephone call from SOG, 6/30/66, a search of files concerning captioned matter failed to reflect any contact by an FBI Agent of Mrs. MAURINE LAMM, Registrar of Vital Statistics, City of Dallas, concerning the placing of a restriction on the issuance of copies of the Death Certificate of President KENNEDY.

Inquiry on 6/30/66 of Special Agent in Charge FORREST V. SORRELS, U. S. Secret Service, Dallas, revealed that on 8/12/65 SA J. J. HOWLETT, U. S. Secret Service, made inquiry at the Registrar's Office, Office of Vital Statistics, concerning the number of copies of the pertinent Death Certificate which had been issued in connection with their inquiry into possible scheme to sell numerous copies of such Death Certificate.

Mr. SORRELS advised that on 8/17/65 SA KENNETH G. WISEMAN U. S. Secret Service, Austin, Texas, contacted W. D. CARROLL, State Registrar's Office, Texas State Department of Health, Austin, Texas. Mr. CARROLL stated that he and Dr. J. E. PEAVY, Commissioner, State Departmentof Health, Austin, Texas, had contacted Dr. HAL J. DEWLETT, Director of Public Health, City of Dallas, regarding the sale of copies of President KENNEDY's Death Certificat CARROLL stated that upon mutual agreement, the file containing the Death Certificate should be flagged and all requests for President KENNEDY's Death Certificate would be screened, and that they would be issued only to the immediate family or authorized representatives of the family.

Mr. SORRELS stated that at no time did any Secret Service Agent make any request that copies of the Death Certificate not be issued.

89-43-5462

On 6/30/66 Mrs. MAURINE LAMM, Registrar, Dallas Bureau of Vital Statistics, was interviewed at her office, 1936 Amelia

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Avenue, Dallas, by SAS HAROLD J. EDGERTON and EMORY E. HORTON at which time she furnished the following:

In August, 1965, Mrs. LAMM was on vacation and upon returning to her office was advised an Agent, believed to be from the FBI, had visited the office and checked the receipt book to determine the number of Certificates of Death for the late President JOHN F. KENNEDY that had been issued. Subsequently, Mrs. LAMM received a memo from Dr. HAL J. DEWLETT, Director, Public Health, City of Dallas, dated 8/17/65, in which Dr. DEWLETT stated that Dr. JAMES E. PEAVY, Commissioner of Health, State of Texas, and Mr. W. D. CARROLL, State Registrar, State Bureau of Vital Statistics, had emphasized that no copies of the Certificate of Death of President KENNEDY should be issued except to immediate members of the family of the deceased.

Mrs. LAMM stated that the memo does not reflect the basis for this directive but it was her understanding from conversation with Dr. DEWLETT that that this directive resulted from a request by an agency believed to be the FBI.

Mrs. LAMM was advised that the FBI had not made the review of the receipt book of the Dallas County Office of Vital Statistics and had not made a request placing any restrictions on the issuance of the Certificate of Death of the late President.

Mrs. LAMM stated that she was extremely sorry that she had directed a letter in which she had erroneously stated that the FBI had placed such a restriction to issuance of the certificate, she would not repeat this action, but would in the future refer to the memo from Dr. DEWLETT.

Dr. DEWLETT was not available on 6/30/66 and in his absence Mrs. LAMM stated she would discuss the matter with Dr. DEWLETT and should there be any questions in his mind that the FBI had placed any restriction on the issuance of the certificate, or made any request in this regard he would contact the Dallas Office of the FBI.